

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-06 CCO-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CU-02 /107 W  
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O P 181512Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2342

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 167

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 18

REF: BEIRUT 8502 (DTG 171527Z NOV 76)

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1. SUMMARY: ASF SETTING STAGE FOR PHASE III IN SIDON AND

TRIPOLI. FIGHTING REPORTED IN SOUTH IN AREAS OF AYN IBL AND KAFR KALA BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS. ARTILLERY DUELS IN TRIPOLI AREA. BEIRUT CALM MARRED ONLY BY CLASH BETWEEN SAIQA AND PDFLP; OTHERWISE, ASF SECURITY MEASURES APPEAR EFFECTIVE. PRESIDENT SARKIS FOCUSING ON SECURITY SITUATION. HE MAY VISIT FOREIGN CAPITALS WHEN CONDITIONS STABILIZE. MURABITUN LEADER ADVOCATING NATIONAL MOVEMENT REFORM PROGRAM AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GRAND MUFTI AND SAEB SALAM UNDER DISCUSSION. PHALANGE TO HOLD SPECIAL PARTY CONGRESS. PRESS FACING STRONGER GOVERNMENT CONTROL MEASURES. GOOD POSSIBILITY OF MORE ELECTRICITY FOR BEIRUT. UNIVERSITIES TO REOPEN IN EAST BEIRUT NOV. 23. END SUMMARY.

2. PHASE III: OPERATIONS "SIDON" AND TRIPOLI." ASF COMMANDER AL-HAJJ NOV 18 INFORMED ACTING GOVERNORS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND THE NORTH TO EXPECT ASF MOVEMENTS WITHIN 72 HOURS. IN MEANTIME, ASF HAS CLEARED ROADS BETWEEN JAZZIN AND SIDON OF MINES, AND, ACCORDING TO VOICE OF LEBANON, HAS WARNED IRAQIS TO WITHDRAW FROM TRIPOLI AND SHUF. TWO NEW SYRIAN BRIGADES, AUGMENTED WITH TROOPS FROM THE UAE AND NORTH YEMEN, EXPECTED ENTER LEBANON FROM SYRIA, ONE PROCEEDING TO SIDON AND OTHER TO TRIPOLI.

3. MILITARY SITUATION: THE SOUTH. FIGHTING REPORTED IN SOUTH NEAR AYN IBL BETWEEN CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. L'ORIENT- LE JOUR REPORTED CHRISTIAN MILITIA ATTACK LATE AFTERNOON NOV 17 AGAINST PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS IN VILLAGE OF KAFR KALA. ACCORDING TO LAA, ISRAELIS PROVIDED ARTILLERY AND ARMORED SUPPORT TO CHRISTIANS. VOICE OF LEBANON NOV 18 CLAIMS KAFR KALA NOW IN RIGHTIST HANDS.

4. MILITARY SITUATION: THE NORTH. CLASHES BETWEEN LAA AND RIGHTIST ELEMENTS, WHICH RENEWED IN NORTH LAST SUNDAY, REPORTEDLY ESCALATED NOV 17 IN DAYR AL-AYN, ZGHORTA, ALMA, KARMALIYAH, MIRYATAH, AND RASHIN. ARTILLERY AND MORTAR EXCHANGES RESULTED IN HEAVY CASUALTIES, MOSTLY CHILDREN RETURNING HOME FROM SCHOOLS, WHICH AGAIN CLOSED INDEFINITELY.

5. MILITARY SITUATION: PALESTINIAN FACTIONAL FIGHTING IN BEIRUT. ONLY ONE INCIDENT OF SIGNIFICANCE DISTURBED TRANQUIL ATMOSPHERE  
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OF BEIRUT. ARTILLERY, MORTAR, AND MACHINE GUN FIRE EXCHANGED BETWEEN SAIQA AND PDFLP ELEMENTS AT SHATILA SQUARE IN SABRA PALESTINIAN CAMP IN QUARREL OVER CONTROL OF BUILDING. ASF DID NOT INTERFERE.

6. ASF SECURITY ACTIVITIES. ASF NOV 17 INCREASED PATROLLING IN CITY, PARTICULARLY ALONG MAIN TRAFFIC ARTERIES. MUSEUM REPORTEDLY ONLY CROSSING POINT IN CITY PROPER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

BEIRUT. WE UNDERSTAND FATAH MAKING EFFORTS TO SYSTEMATICALLY OBSERVE VEHICLES CROSSING AT MUSEUM. WEST BEIRUTIS WHO OWN PROPERTY IN EAST BEIRUT STILL HESITANT TO VISIT OTHER SIDE, AFTER TWO WEST BEIRUT MERCHANTS REPORTEDLY KILLED WHILE INSPECTING THEIR PROPERTY IN EAST. ASF SEIZING ALL WEAPONS WHEN DISCOVERED. PRESS REPORTS LOOTERS ARE TAKEN TO BAIN MILITAIRE AND PUBLICLY FLAGELLATED. PERMIT FROM AN ASF LIAISON OFFICER IS REQUIRED TO MOVE TRANSPORTABLE GOODS, SUCH AS FURNITURE, AND MERCHANTS NEED DOCUMENTATION FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. WE HAVE REPORT OF ALLEGED SYRIAN PLANS TO ESTABLISH VAST INFORMER NETWORK MODELED AFTER THE SYRIAN SYSTEM THROUGHOUT LEBANON.

7. PRESIDENTIAL PLANS. "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES" REPORT PRESIDENT SARKIS MAY VISIT SEVERAL FOREIGN CAPITALS IN MIDDLE EAST, BEGINNING WITH RIYADH, AND THEN GO TO EUROPE, BUT ONLY AFTER SECURITY ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT LEBANON. SARKIS EXPECTED ADDRESS NATION ON NATIONAL DAY NOV 22, FOCUSING ON SECURITY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY. PRESIDENT MET WITH SYRIAN COL MOHAMAD AL-KHOLY WHO BROUGHT VERBAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD ON THIRD STAGE OF SECURITY PLAN, AND ALSO WITH LEBANESE BAATH PARTY SEC GEN ASSIM QANSU. ISSUES ON WHICH SARKIS FOCUSED YESTERDAY INCLUDED:

- 1) SAFE ARRIVAL OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES;
- 2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL COURTS TO HANDLE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS;
- 3) UNIFICATION OF OFFICIAL MEDIA; AND
- 4) RECONCILIATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY PRIOR TO REOPENING OF AIRPORT, INCLUDING KINDS OF PASSPORTS TO BE ACCEPTED. (MEA HAS ANNOUNCED FIRST PLANE TO ARRIVE IN BEIRUT AT 0900 (LOCAL) NOV 19 FROM THE GULF.)

8. MUSLIMS AND LEFTISTS. MURABITUN LEADER IBRAHIM KULAYLAT CRITICIZED MODERATE MUSLIM LEADERS FOR BUILDING TOO MANY BRIDGES TO SARKIS PRESIDENCY. HE SAID THERE CAN BE NO SOLUTION OF LEBANESE PROBLEMS OUTSIDE OF REFORM PROGRAM ADVOCATED BY NATIONAL MOVEMENT. RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GRAND MUFTI AND SAEB SALAM

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DISCUSSED YESTERDAY BETWEEN SHAYKH SUBHI SALAH, SEC GEN OF NATIONAL ISLAMIC FRONT, AND LT KHATIB OF LAA. SALAH TO MEET NOV 18 WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC GROUP, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, TO DISCUSS WAYS "TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ISLAMIC GROUP MAINTAINS A CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTROL IN WEST BEIRUT."

9. PHALANGE PARTY CONGRESS. PHALANGE ANNOUNCED UPCOMING SPECIAL PARTY CONGRESS TO "DEFINE FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE LEBANON." PARTY NEWSPAPER, AL AMAL, SAID CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT LEBANESE "ATTACHMENT TO ARAB NATIONALISM" AND WILL DISCUSS A "SYSTEM OF DECENTRALIZATION COMPATIBLE WITH THE NEW POST-WAR LEBANON." NO DATE SET.

10. BRINGING PRESS UNDER CONTROL. PRESIDENT OF PRESS SYNDICATE RIAD TAHA HAS CALLED FOR REACTIVATION OF PRESS LAWS AND SPOKE

FAVORABLY OF NEW PRESS "SELF CENSORSHIP." NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY  
DIRECTOR MOHAMMAD MASHNOUQ MET WITH DIRGEN OF LEBANESE TELEVISION  
COMPANY AND SEVERAL OTHER MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, WHO AGREED  
THAT FUTURE TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS WILL BE BASED ON BULLETINS  
OF NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, AS LAW REQUIRES.

11. MORE ELECTRICITY FOR BEIRUT. DIRGEN OF ELECTRICITY FUAD  
BIZRI SAYS POWER LINES BETWEEN HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS ON LITANI  
RIVER AND BEIRUT HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND NOW BEING TESTED.  
WITHIN A WEEK MORE ELECTRICITY MAY BE PROVIDED TO BEIRUT.

12. UNIVERSITIES TO REOPEN IN EAST BEIRUT. THE BUREAU OF  
STUDENT INTERESTS OF PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES  
ISSUED STATEMENT NOV 17 ANNOUNCING OPENING OF ACADEMIC YEAR  
IN ALL SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES (INCLUDING LEBANESE UNIVERSITY)  
IN EAST BEIRUT ON NOV 23.  
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## Message Attributes

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